

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 OPIC-03 AF-06 OMB-01 EB-07 SSO-00 /078 W

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R 192047Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1283

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUSFARAZ

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 00362

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: PPD LEADERS VIEW OF AZOREAN SITUATION

1. PPD CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DELEGATE AND SEPARATIST LEADER, MOTAAMARAL NO LONGER THINK THERE WILL BE INDEPENDENCE MOVE IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. HE NOW FAVORS REFERENDUM AND DISCOUNTS POSSIBILITY OF INDEPENDENCE BY COUP. HE SAID AZOREANS ARE NON-VIOLENT PEOPLE AND WILL SEEK INDEPENDENCE NON-VIOLENTLY. SHIFT IN INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, LACK OF FOREIGN SUPPORT AND DIMINISHED COMMUNIST THREAT IN PORTUGAL CAUSED THIS CHANGE IN SEPARATIST STRATEGY. MOTAAMORAL CONTINUES TO FAVOR INDEPENDENCE BUT SEES ADVANTAGE IN ALLOWING JUNTA REGIONAL TO ESTABLISH FUNCTIONING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TO OBTAIN MONEY FROM LISBON FOR ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE. HE SAID IN SOME RESPECTS AUTONOMY MIGHT BE BEST SINCE AZOREANS WOULD NOT HAVE EXPENSES OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 16 PPD ANNOUNCED, SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THREE
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DISTRICTS OF AZORES, ITS DRAFT CONSTITUTIONAL

ARTICLES ON AUTONOMY FOR AZORES AND MADEIRA. PROPOSAL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL VOICE IN DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING ISLANDS, LOCAL CONTROL OVER NATIONALIZED COMPANIES, LOCAL INVESTMENT OF MONEY BACKING SOCIAL SECURITY, AND PROMOTION OF LOCAL CULTURAL VALUES.

3. MOTAAMORAL EXPLAINED THAT PPD'S DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AUTONOMY IS NEGOTIATING POSITION DELIBERATELY GOING BEYOND WHAT PPD EXPECTS TO BE APPROVED IN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. HE CLAIMED NATIONAL PPP HAD CHANGED LESS OF HIS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAN HE EXPECTED.

4. COMMENT: MOTAAMORAL WAS VAGUE ON QUESTION OF REFERENDUM, PROBABLY BECAUSE NEW SEPARATIST STRATEGY NOT YET FULLY DEVELOPED. ALTHOUGH STRATEGY HAS CHANGED, IT IS APPARENT THAT SEPARATIST MOVEMENT WILL NOT DISAPPEAR. PFEIFLE

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